

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W
-----222014 002230 /46

R 221928Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5814
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03205

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINR, GW, UK, EEC
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON AMBASSADOR KARL-GUENTHER
VON HASE

REFS: A. USEC 0992; (B) LONDON A-85 OF FEBRUARY 4,
1977; (C) BONN A-1354 OF DECEMBER 22, 1969

1. THE FRG CABINET DECIDED ON FEBRUARY 2 TO TRANSFER
KARL-GUENTHER VON HASE, AMBASSADOR TO LONDON SINCE 1970,
TO BRUSSELS AS BONN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, THE EMBASSY
HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING BRIEF BIOGRAPHY ON VON HASE,

WITH WHOM WE HAVE HAD VIRTUALLY NO CONTACT SINCE HIS
DEPARTURE FOR LONDON IN 1970 (REF C).

2. VON HASE HAS HAD ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING AND UN-
ORTHODOX CAREERS IN THE GERMAN FOREIGN SERVICE. BORN
IN WANGERN (IN THE Breslau DISTRICT OF LOWER SILESIA),
ON DECEMBER 15, 1917, HE WENT TO SCHOOLS IN BERLIN. HIS
FATHER WAS A PRUSSIAN POLICE OFFICER WHOM THE NAZIS
PREMATURELY RETIRED FOR POLITICAL REASONS IN 1934. HIS
FATHER'S ELDER BROTHER, LT. GENERAL PAUL VON HASE, WAS
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HANGED AS ONE OF THE CONSPIRATORS IN THE JULY 20, 1944
PUTSCH AGAINST HITLER. A COUSIN, PASTOR DIETRICH
BONHOEFFER, WAS LIKEWISE EXECUTED.

3. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, VON HASE DID HIS COMPULSORY
LABOR SERVICE AND THEN BECAME A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER.
HE QUALIFIED FOR THE GENERAL STAFF AND MADE A DISTIN-

GUISHED WAR RECORD, WINNING THE RITTERKREUZ (KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE IRON CROSS). BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF HIS RELATIVES IN THE 1944 PUTSCH ATTEMPT, HOWEVER, HE WAS EXPELLED FROM HIS JOB AS GENERAL STAFF MAJOR. THE RUSSIANS CAPTURED HIM IN 1945 AND HELD HIM FOR FIVE YEARS.

4. VON HASE IS ONE OF THE FEW NON-UNIVERSITY GRADUATES TO ENTER THE FOREIGN SERVICE SCHOOL IN SPEYER WHERE, IN 1950-1951, HE TRAINED FOR THE SENIOR SERVICE. (HE ALSO STUDIED BRIEFLY AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN 1952.) VON HASE SERVED IN THE PROTOCOL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1951-1953), AND THE FRG EMBASSY IN OTTAWA (1953-1956). HE WAS RECALLED TO BONN TO BECOME DEPUTY (1956-1958), AND THEN CHIEF (1958-1961), OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS SECTION.

5. IT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY WHEN VON HASE, ORIGINALLY SLATED TO BECOME COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN ROME, RECEIVED IN SEPTEMBER 1961 A THREE-STEP PROMOTION (TO THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY) WHICH PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE WESTERN II DIVISION, COVERING NATO, DEFENSE, UK, US, CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA, AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AFFAIRS. NINE MONTHS LATER, IN JULY 1962, ADENAUER MADE HIM CHIEF OF THE FRG PRESS AND

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INFORMATION OFFICE, WITH THE RANK OF CAREER STATE

SECRETARY REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCELLOR. VON HASE STAYED IN THAT JOB FIVE-AND-A-HALF YEARS, SERVING THREE CHANCELLORS: ADENAUER, ERHARD, AND KIESINGER. IN DECEMBER 1967 HE BECAME STATE SECRETARY IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, A POST HE HELD UNTIL HIS ASSIGNMENT TO LONDON.

6. VON HASE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER RENATE STUMPF, DAUGHTER OF A FOUR-STAR LUFTWAFFE GENERAL. THEY HAVE FIVE DAUGHTERS: JUTTA (27), CORNELIA (25), VERONA (23), BETTINA (20), AND ANGELIKA (16). VON HASE SPEAKS FLUENT RUSSIAN, ENGLISH, AND FRENCH. HE ENJOYS SPORTS (PARTICULARLY HORSEBACK RIDING), MUSIC, RENAISSANCE ART, AND 19TH CENTURY HISTORY.

7. COMMENT. VON HASE'S UNORTHODOX CAREER HAS TAKEN ANOTHER TURN WITH HIS APPOINTMENT TO BRUSSELS. VON HASE HAS NO BROAD ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. MOREOVER, HE IS THE HIGHEST-LEVEL AMBASSADOR (HOLDING THE RANK OF STATE SECRETARY) WHOM BONN HAS SENT TO ITS PERMANENT EC MISSION.(SEVERAL OF VON HASE'S PREDECESSORS BECAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE SECRETARY AFTER LEAVING BRUSSELS.) FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS TELL US THAT BONN IS SENDING VON HASE TO BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO (A) UPGRADE ITS GENERAL POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE EC, AND (B) PURSUE ITS LONG-STANDING GOAL OF HAVING ALL EC PERMREPS SERVE AT THE STATE SECRETARY LEVEL ("EUROPEAN STATE SECRETARIES"). HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT MANY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS--INCLUDING VON HASE--HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS APPOINTMENT AND THAT SOME HAVE CRITICIZED GENSCHER FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE HAS HANDLED THE GENERAL DIPLOMATIC REVIREMENT NOW UNDERWAY. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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